

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1     **1.**   An arrangement for storing and conveying a liquid  
2           comprising:

3                 a first liquid container having an inlet opening and  
4                 an outlet opening;

5                 a pipe-shaped first drain stub connected to said  
6                 outlet opening of said liquid container;

7                 a first partial flange connected to an outlet end of  
8                 said drain stub;

9                 at least one complementary flange adjoining and  
10                complementing said partial flange so that said  
11                complementary and partial flanges together form a first  
12                circular flange;

13                a second circular flange connected to said first  
14                circular flange; and

15                a drain line connected to said second circular flange,  
16                so as to establish liquid communication from said outlet  
17                opening of said first liquid container, through said first  
18                drain stub, said first partial flange, and said second  
19                circular flange into said drain line.

1     **2.**   The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said first  
2           circular flange and said second circular flange both have  
3           the same outer diameter and are arranged in registration  
4           with each other on a common circle centerpoint.

1     **3.**    The arrangement according to claim 1, further comprising at  
2            least one additional liquid container arranged adjacent to  
3            said first liquid container about a fictitious upright axis  
4            extending vertically through a circle centerpoint of said  
5            first circular flange, wherein an outer diameter of said  
6            first circular flange is large enough so that said first  
7            circular flange extends radially outwardly from said  
8            upright axis to project under each one of said first liquid  
9            container and said at least one additional liquid  
10           container.

1     **4.**    The arrangement according to claim 3, wherein said outlet  
2            opening is located in a floor of said first liquid  
3            container at a location offset from a vertical center axis  
4            of said first liquid container toward said upright axis.

1     **5.**    The arrangement according to claim 4, wherein said first  
2            drain stub extends vertically between said outlet opening  
3            of said first liquid container and said first circular  
4            flange.

1     **6.**    The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said at least  
2            one complementary flange comprises a blind flange that does  
3            not have an opening communicating therethrough and through  
4            said second circular flange into said drain line.

1     **7.**     The arrangement according to claim 6, wherein said first  
2             partial flange and said blind flange each respectively have  
3             a plan shape of a respective sector of a circle.

1     **8.**     The arrangement according to claim 7, wherein said plan  
2             shape of said first partial flange and of said blind flange  
3             is respectively selected from the group consisting of a  
4             one-quarter-circle sector, a one-third-circle sector, a  
5             one-half-circle sector, a two-thirds-circle sector, and a  
6             three-quarters-circle sector.

1     **9.**     The arrangement according to claim 8, wherein said first  
2             liquid container is the single only liquid container  
3             connected to said second circular flange, and wherein said  
4             plan shape of said first partial flange and of said blind  
5             flange is selected from the group wherein said plan shape  
6             of said first partial flange is said one-half-circle  
7             sector, and said plan shape of said blind flange is said  
8             one-half-circle sector, said plane shape of said first  
9             partial flange is said one-third-circle sector and said  
10            plan shape of said blind flange is said two-thirds-circle  
11            sector, and said plan shape of said first partial flange is  
12            said one-quarter-circle sector and said plan shape of said  
13            blind flange is said three-quarters-circle sector.

1     **10.**    The arrangement according to claim 1, further comprising at  
2             least one additional liquid container arranged adjacent to  
3             said first liquid container and having an inlet opening and

4 an outlet opening, and a pipe-shaped second drain stub  
5 connected to said outlet opening of said additional liquid  
6 container, and wherein said at least one complementary  
7 flange comprises a second partial flange connected to an  
8 outlet end of said second drain stub so as to establish  
9 liquid communication from said outlet opening of said  
10 additional liquid container, through said second drain  
11 stub, said second partial flange, and said second circular  
12 flange into said drain line.

1 **11.** The arrangement according to claim 10, wherein said first  
2 and second partial flanges each respectively have a plan  
3 shape of a respective sector of a circle.

1 **12.** The arrangement according to claim 11, wherein said sector  
2 of a circle is respectively selected from the group  
3 consisting of a one-quarter-circle sector, a  
4 one-third-circle sector, and a one-half-circle sector.

1 **13.** The arrangement according to claim 10, wherein said at  
2 least one complementary flange further comprises a blind  
3 flange that does not have an opening communicating  
4 therethrough and through said second circular flange into  
5 said drain line.

1 **14.** The arrangement according to claim 10, wherein said drain  
2 line is the single only drain line connected to said second  
3 circular flange.

1    **15.** The arrangement according to claim 10, wherein said first  
2       liquid container and said at least one additional liquid  
3       container are arranged adjacent one another about a  
4       fictitious upright axis extending vertically through a  
5       circle centerpoint of said first and second circular  
6       flanges.

1    **16.** The arrangement according to claim 15, wherein each one of  
2       said liquid containers has a cross-sectional shape  
3       substantially corresponding to a sector of a circle  
4       centered at said upright axis.

1    **17.** The arrangement according to claim 16, wherein each one of  
2       said liquid containers has an outer wall comprising a  
3       cylindrically curved convex wall portion extending along a  
4       cylindrical arc about said upright axis, and at least one  
5       substantially straight wall portion extending along a  
6       radial plane radiating from said upright axis.

1    **18.** The arrangement according to claim 17, wherein said  
2       substantially straight wall portion has a concave  
3       depression therein.

1    **19.** The arrangement according to claim 17, wherein each one of  
2       said liquid containers is respectively a tank having a  
3       configuration of a one-half-cylinder, a one-third-cylinder,  
4       or a one-quarter-cylinder.

1     **20.**   The arrangement according to claim 15, wherein each one of  
2           said liquid containers is respectively a tank having a  
3           cylindrical configuration.

1     **21.**   The arrangement according to claim 20, wherein a diameter  
2           of said first circular flange centered on said upright axis  
3           is not greater than a clear space perpendicular to said  
4           upright axis between said liquid containers, so that said  
5           first circular flange does not extend radially outwardly  
6           from said upright axis to below said liquid containers, and  
7           wherein each one of said drain stubs extends at a  
8           downwardly sloping angle from a respective connected one of  
9           said liquid containers toward said upright axis to be  
10          connected with said partial flange thereof to said second  
11          circular flange.

1     **22.**   The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said first  
2           and second circular flanges each have a complete 360°  
3           circular plan shape.

1     **23.**   The arrangement according to claim 1, further comprising a  
2           flange seal interposed between said first and second  
3           circular flanges, wherein said first partial flange, said  
4           flange seal and said second circular flange respectively  
5           have throughholes therein aligned with one another to  
6           establish said liquid communication.

1     **24.** The arrangement according to claim 23, wherein said second  
2         circular flange has at least one additional throughhole  
3         therein under said at least one complementary flange, and  
4         wherein a total number of said throughholes in said second  
5         circular flange determines a maximum total number of liquid  
6         containers that can be connected to said drain line via  
7         said second circular flange.

1     **25.** The arrangement according to claim 24, wherein said second  
2         circular flange further has a plenum space that  
3         interconnects and communicates all of said throughholes in  
4         said second circular flange with said drain line connected  
5         to said second circular flange.

1     **26.** The arrangement according to claim 23, wherein said at  
2         least one complementary flange comprises a blind flange  
3         without a liquid communication throughhole therein, and  
4         wherein said flange seal has no throughhole under said  
5         blind flange.

1     **27.** The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said drain  
2         line is unbranched and is further connected to a drain  
3         system.

1     **28.** An arrangement for storing and conveying a liquid  
2         comprising:  
3                 a first liquid container having an inlet opening and  
4                 an outlet opening;

5 a pipe-shaped first drain stub connected to said  
6 outlet opening of said liquid container;

7 a circular flange having plural connection openings  
8 therein, and plural pipe-shaped connection stubs  
9 respectively communicating with and extending from said  
10 plural connection openings; and

11 a drain line connected to said circular flange and  
12 communicating with all of said connection stubs through  
13 said connection openings;

14 wherein said first drain stub is connected to a first  
15 one of said connection stubs so as to communicate with said  
16 drain line.

1 **29.** The arrangement according to claim 28, further comprising  
2 a closed blind flange secured to an open inlet end of an  
3 unneeded one of said connection stubs so as to close-off  
4 said unneeded one of said connection stubs.

1 **30.** The arrangement according to claim 28, further comprising:

2 a second liquid container having an inlet opening and  
3 an outlet opening; and

4 a pipe-shaped second drain stub connected to said  
5 outlet opening of said second liquid container;

6 wherein said second drain stub is connected to a  
7 second one of said connection stubs so as to communicate  
8 with said drain line.



1     **31.** The arrangement according to claim 28, wherein said  
2     circular flange comprises a circular flange plate with said  
3     connection openings therein and said connection stubs  
4     connected thereto and extending therefrom, and a conical  
5     frustum-shaped hollow funnel having a larger-diameter end  
6     connected to a side of said circular flange plate opposite  
7     said connection stubs and a smaller-diameter end connected  
8     to an inlet end of said drain line.

1     **32.** The arrangement according to claim 28, further comprising  
2     a circular drain flange with a throughhole therein provided  
3     on an outlet end of said first drain stub, and a circular  
4     connection flange with a throughhole therein provided on an  
5     inlet end of said first connection stub, and wherein said  
6     first drain stub is connected to said first connection stub  
7     by coupling said drain flange and said connection flange  
8     together.

1     **33.** The arrangement according to claim 32, further comprising  
2     a flange seal with a throughhole therein interposed between  
3     said drain flange and said connection flange.

1     **34.** The arrangement according to claim 32, wherein said drain  
2     flange and said connection flange respectively have  
3     radially outwardly tapering rims, and further comprising a  
4     circumferential clamp with a tapered inner groove in which  
5     said tapering rims are received as said clamp clamps  
6     together said drain flange and said connection flange.